

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10 and 16-19 are independent. All of the pending claims stand rejected. By this amendment, claims 3 and 4 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Independent claims 1, 10 and 16-19, as well as dependent claims 5-8 and 12-15 are amended. No new matter has been amended by this amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 8, 16 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Miller, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,356,356 (“Miller”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0075524 to Blair et al. (“Blair”).

Claims 3-5, 10, 12-15, 17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Miller in view of Blair, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,658,456 to Shimoosawa (“Shimoosawa”).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons as set forth below.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 16-19 have been amended for further clarification. In particular, amended claim 1 recites “registration means,” “reception means,” “confirming means,” and “transmission means.” Other amended independent claims 10 and 16-19 recite similar features to claim 1 as amended.

Referring to Figs. 2 and 3 along with relevant portions of the original specification (e.g., page 8, line 10 - page 9, line 5), clients inquiries are received and stored as destination information (i.e., clients' email addresses and customized image formats are registered).

Referring to Fig. 6 along with relevant portions of the original specification (e.g., page 11, line 8 - page 13, line 25), upon receiving a facsimile message (S601) from the public network, it is determined that the mail destination of a client is valid (S602). If it is determined that the client's account is valid, an email is composed (S603) directed to the client based on the received facsimile message as well as the destination information (i.e., client's customized image format). Referring back to Fig. 3, for example, if an email is composed for client's name "akimoto" having an email address as "aki@aaa.co.jp", the image from the facsimile message needs to be attached after the the image format is converted into "JPEG" and "GIF" for color and monochrome images, respectively. The composed email may then be transmitted to the targeted client (S609).

One of the aspects of the present invention as featured in the amended independent claims is generating an email message directed to a client based on the received facsimile message having image information. The image information may be formatted for an attachment according to client's customized format request which is registered in advance.

Miller discloses a system capable of sending an email message based on an intercepted facsimile message. In particular, Miller scans the intercepted facsimile message to locate destination e-mail address. A portion of Miller describes "[t]he provider of a fax to e-mail service on fax/e-mail server 18 may specify the location and format of the destination e-mail

addresses within the fax transmission. By doing this, the time and effort used by scanner 34 can be minimized.” (Col. 4, lines 51-55)

In contrast, the present invention does not “scan” the facsimile message to locate the destination email address and there is no need for the provider of the facsimile message to include an email address. In the present invention, the possible recipients (i.e., clients) along with their customized image format requests are pre-registered.

Blair is cited as merely disclosing “receiving color image information.” Blair, however, lacking the above-described feature of the present invention, cannot remedy the deficiency of Miller.

Shimoosawa is cited as disclosing a registration means. However, Shimoosawa fails to show or suggest a registration means which receives a customized format of an image to be received as required by the independent claims 1, 10 and 16-19 as amended. Shimoosawa further fails to show or suggest that the customized format information is used to generate an email based on a received facsimile message.

Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 10 and 16-19 as amended is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Miller, Blair and Shimoosawa, either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 10 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicants submit that, in view of the amendments to the claims presented herein and, for at least similar reasons as to why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are

believed allowable as discussed supra, the dependent claims are also believed allowable.

Applicants however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

Applicants believe that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.